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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

HIROYUKI INOUE, et al.

Application No.: 08/796,519

Filed: February 7, 1997

For: INK CONTAINER FOR INK
JET PRINTING, HOLDER FOR
THE CONTAINER, CARRIAGE
FOR THE HOLDER AND
INK JET PRINTER

) : Examiner: C. Hallacher

) : Group Art Unit: 2853

) : February 7, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

Europe 408,241
Europe 585,615
Japan 5-57906
Japan 5-104735

These documents were cited during prosecution of a Canadian and two German patent applications corresponding to the above U.S. application. Copies of the Search Reports, which are dated November 6, 2002, December 17, 2002 and December 20, 2002, respectively, are enclosed. It is noted that the art cited in the Canadian Report is already of record in this case. Accordingly, it is hereby certified under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

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that each document in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

Other documents cited in the Search Reports have been cited in Information Disclosure Statements dated May 21, 2002, March 17, 1999, August 28, 1998, June 16, 1997, and February 6, 1997.

The concise explanation of relevance for the non-English documents cited above is provided in the Search Reports and by the English language abstracts included with the cited art. The Examiner is, of course, referred to the foreign Examiner's comments on the English language documents as well.

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialling the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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